Claim 4,   line 1, delete "claims nos. 1, 2 and 3", and insert --claim no. 1--;

lines 2 and 3, delete "in the claims nos. 1, 2 or 3";

line 3, after "completed" insert --,--;

Claim 5,   line 1, delete "claims nos. 1, 2 and 3", and insert --claim no. 1--;

Claim 6,   line 3, delete "in claim no. 1";

Claim 7,   line 1, delete "or claim no. 6";

Claim 8,   line 3, delete "in claim no. 1";

Claim 9,   line 1, delete "or claim no. 2";

lines 2 and 3, delete "in claim no. 1 or claim no. 2";

Claim 10, lines 1 and 2, delete "or claim no. 2 or claim no. 3";

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Claim 11, lines 1 and 2, delete "or claim no. 2 or claim no. 3 or claim no. 10";

Claim 12, line 1, delete "claims nos. 1 through to 3", and insert --claim no. 1--;

Claim 13, lines 1 and 2, delete "claims nos. 1 through to 3, or claim no. 12", and insert --claim no. 1--;

Claim 14, line 1, delete "claims nos. 1 through to 3", and insert --claim no. 1--;
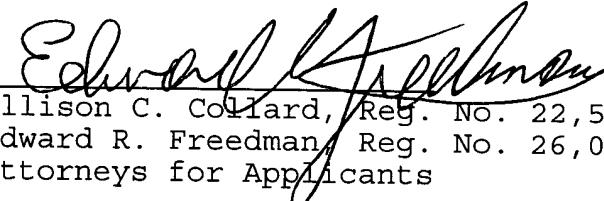
Claim 15, lines 1 and 2, delete "claims nos. 1 through to 3, or claim no. 12 or claim no. 13 or claim no. 14", and insert --claim no. 1--;

Please add the <u>Abstract</u> attached hereto on a separate sheet.

<u>REMARKS</u>

By this Preliminary Amendment, the multiple dependency of certain of the dependent claims has been removed so as to avoid the surcharge associated therewith and an Abstract is being provided. No new matter has been introduced. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

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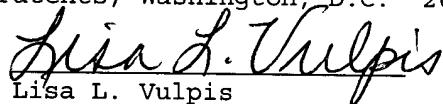
Respectfully submitted,
WOLF-GERNOT DROST ET AL

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EXPRESS MAIL NO. **EL 769 423 630 US**
Date of Deposit: <u>January 3, 2001</u>
I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10, on the date indicated above, and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

_____
Lisa L. Vulpis

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